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DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN TADZHIK SSR

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[This report presents information from an article by M. Prishchep entitled "Solicitude of the Communist Party in Regard to Further Development of Agriculture in the USSR," in which he summarized the results of the Seventh Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Tadzhik SSR, in session 30 September-2 October 1953, pursuant to the decree of the September 1953 Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU "On Measures for the Further Development of Agriculture in the USSR."]

The level of field-work mechanization in grain kolkhozes of the republic was almost twice as high in 1952 as in 1948. In spring 1953, tractor sowing of grain crops was carried out on four times the area sown by tractor in 1948.

In recent years, all cotton land has generally been plowed by tractor. In 1953, 98 percent of all cotton fields were sown by tractor. Cultivation, furrowing, application of fertilizers, spraying, and dusting have been almost fully mechanized. The number of cotton-harvesting machines has increased year after year.

From 1945 to 1952, the cotton yield has more than tripled in the republic. During the postwar years, the area sown to cotton has increased 34 percent. Gross production of raw cotton was 3.5 times as great at the end as at the beginning of the Fourth Five-Year Plan. For a number of years, the republic has occupied first place in the USSR for cotton yield and second place for gross production.

The yield of grain crops has increased 38 percent since 1940. The 1952 gross grain harvest was 34 percent greater than before the war. The area devoted to oil flax has become several times as large as before the war.

In some rayons of the republic, the yield of grain and oleaginous crops remains low. Examples are Fayzabadskiy, Koktashskiy, Ordzhonikidzeabadskiy, Shakhristanskiy, and Khovelingskiy rayons and Garmaskaya Oblast, where the average yield of grain crops does not exceed 5-6 quintals per hectare.

In potato production, kolkhozes of the republic have not reattained the prewar level. In 1953, considerably fewer potatoes were planted than in 1940. The prewar yield level has not been reattained; in 1952, the yield was only one half as great as in 1940.

Horticulture and viticulture are neglected branches of agriculture. During the last 13 years, 7,900 hectares of orchards were planted in kolkhozes of the republic, but due to poor care less than one half of the trees survived. The fruit yield is still below the prewar level.

Especially serious shortcomings are prevalent in animal husbandry. The slow growth of collectivized livestock herds in recent years precludes the fulfillment of the state plan for the development of animal husbandry in kolkhozes of the republic.

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Livestock productivity is also extremely low. The milk yield per foraging cow is lower than that obtained before the war. The yield per cow in 1952 was 274 liters of milk, or 40 percent of the planned amount; the wool clip was 1.3 kilograms per sheep, or 76 percent of the plan.

Many kolkhozes of the republic keep failing to meet their plans for sowing alfalfa, fodder root crops, and ensilage crops. The procurement of hay derived from natural and sown grasses is greatly delayed, which leads to a lowered quality of fodder. The construction of animal shelters also continues at a slow rate.

The mechanization of labor-consuming operations in the field of animal husbandry is completely unsatisfactory, especially in the procurement and preparation of fodder. There is still not a single mechanized farm in the republic.

Poultry raising is a very backward division of animal husbandry, and the plan for poultry development is constantly unfulfilled. The egg-producing capacity of hens remains low.

For further development of agriculture in the republic, it is necessary:

1. To raise the cotton yield in lagging kolkhozes to that in leading kolkhozes, in order to increase the gross raw-cotton harvest at least 60-70 percent; during the next 2 years, to raise the average yield per hectare of Soviet cotton varieties to 42 quintals and of Soviet fine-fiber varieties to 33 quintals.
2. To liquidate lagging in the development of animal husbandry and sharply to raise livestock productivity.
3. To increase during the next 2-3 years the production of potatoes and vegetables to a level which will fully satisfy the demands of the population and the processing industry of the republic.
4. To liquidate lagging in the development of grain growing.
5. To establish hotbeds and hothouses in kolkhozes.
6. To complete mechanization of all basic land-cultivation operations.
7. To take measures to improve supervision of agriculture.

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